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Title: Need to extend all possible assistance to the Government of Kerala to address the problems of workers engaged in traditional industries in the State.- Laid.

SHRI P. RAJENDRAN (QUILON): The plight of about one crore people who are dependant on traditional industries for their livelihood all over Kerala is very pathetic and pitiable. The lives of these workers mainly in the cashew, coir, handloom industries, fisheries and construction sector have been miserable following the crises in agriculture and allied sectors. Amongst these workers, around two million either completely unemployed or partly employed.

The crisis of cashew industry due to fall in the price of cashew kernels has indeed caused a negative impact on our foreign exchange earnings apart from rendering workers jobless. Coir products worth crores of rupees are accumulated in the godowns for long as the exports has shown a diminishing trend and workers are denied of employment for the last few years.

Application of modern technology, infusion of capital investment and modern marketing are the dire needs of these traditional industries.

I would, therefore, urge upon the Government of India to extend all possible assistance to the Sate of Kerala so as to save the millions from starvation.